



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Public Health

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October 1, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **TRANS FAT REDUCTION AND NUTRITIONAL LABELING**

On January 30, 2007, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Burke, which 1) instructed the Director of Public Health to develop for Board review and approval within 45 days, a voluntary, incentive-based program for trans fat reduction in food sold in retail food facilities, 2) instructed the Director of Public Health to work with the CAO and County Counsel to develop contract language which will require operators of food facilities who prepare and serve food in County buildings to comply with limits on trans fats in servings, and 3) went on record in support of State legislation that would a) restrict the amount of trans fat in retail food facility food servings and b) promote the availability of calorie and nutritional labeling by retail food facilities on their menus and menu boards.

This is an update on actions taken since the last report on April 8, 2008.

Voluntary Incentive-based Trans Fat Reduction Program

AB 97 (Mendoza), which will require all foods containing artificial trans fats to have less than 0.5 grams of trans fat per serving, has been enacted and will take effect January 1, 2010. Los Angeles County's voluntary program will no longer be applicable once this state law takes effect.

Los Angeles County's Artificial Trans Fat Reduction Program (ATFR) was launched on November 15, 2007. To date, 43 food facilities have been approved to display the decal and applications for three major restaurant chains with 43 facilities are pending. The Environmental Health Program has conducted four regional trainings on ATFR and will conduct two more before October 1, 2008. They continue to provide technical assistance in trans fat reduction to food facilities. Participation in the voluntary trans fat reduction effort will give facilities public recognition as protectors of the public's health and help them comply with AB 97.

An ATFR Program evaluation team developed a food facility survey to identify barriers to participation and to assess awareness of AB 97. The initial surveys were administered at meetings of the Korean Restaurant Association and the Chinese Restaurant Association and preliminary results show that most restaurant owners and managers are aware of the new state law and want the County to provide assistance with compliance. Many expressed positive views of the voluntary program and said they intended to participate in it.

County Food Service Contracts

As food service contracts are renewed, contractors will be required to participate in the ATFR Program. The Department of Health Services is in the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for dietary services and concession/public cafeterias at five DHS facilities. The Department of Parks and Recreation is developing a solicitation package for two golf course food concession contracts (Marshall Canyon and Whittier Narrows). The contracts are expected to be completed by spring 2009. They will include the new language in the RFP and the resulting agreements to implement the Board mandate. All food service contracts at County facilities will be required to comply with AB 97 as of January 1, 2010.

County Support for State Legislation on Menu Labeling

On September 30, 2008 the Governor signed County-supported SB 1420 (Padilla/Migden/DeSaulnier), which will require restaurants with 20 or more food facilities in California to post calories on their menus *and indoor menu boards and starting January 1, 2011. Beginning January 1, 2009, brochures containing* either calorie content and other nutritional information, such as grams of saturated fat, grams of carbohydrates and milligrams of sodium, will be at the point of sale and drive-thrus for consumers.

Local menu labeling ordinances, such as those passed in San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties will be preempted by the State legislation. Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles have both approved motions to develop local menu labeling ordinances but will now be prevented from doing so by this new law. However, the state law should achieve the same goals as the intended local ordinances.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:jt
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c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors